(c) the extent of financial savings likely to be accrued annually as a result of the merger of these departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Government has recently decided to merge the Department of Industrial Development with the department of Industrial Policy and Promotion vide notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat on 3 April, 2000 under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has been asked to take necessary action to abolish such posts in the erstwhile Department of Industrial Development which are considered surplus to their requirement. The extent of financial savings likely to accrue annually will depend on the number of posts that may be abolished as a result of merger.

Bill of Right to Information

†3615. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bill relating to Right to Information to common man has been finalised and approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be passed by Parliament; and

(c) if or decision has been taken on the passage of the Bill in this Session so far, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies the Government had, in January, 1997, constituted a Working Group on Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The report of the Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in Parliament.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.